

WE CLAIM:

1. In a method of producing selectively elastic areas in a precursor web suitable for resultant garments, the precursor web having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) providing the precursor web at a first dimension, at least a portion of the precursor web being extendable under force to a second dimension greater than the first dimension;

b) affixing an elastic material to the at least a portion of the precursor web when the at least a portion of the precursor web is at the first dimension; and

c) producing a garment from the precursor web with the affixed elastic material without permanent deformation of the precursor web subsequent to affixing the elastic.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of affixing an elastic material to the at least a portion of the precursor web further comprises applying a pre-elastic when the at least a portion of the web is at the first dimension, and treating the pre-elastic to become an elastomeric while the at least a portion of the web is at the first dimension.

3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor web comprises a backsheet web.

4. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet web comprises a nonwoven spunbond web extendable in at least the lateral direction.

5. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet web comprises a microporous film extendable in at least the lateral direction.

6. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the backsheet web comprises a microporous film extendable in at least the lateral direction.

7. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the backsheet web comprises an elastomeric extendable in at least the lateral direction.

8. The method according to Claim 6 wherein the backsheet web comprises an elastomeric extendable in at least the lateral direction.

9. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the precursor web further comprises a topsheet web layer.

10. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor web comprises an assembled diaper lacking only a waistband elastic.

11. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet comprises material selected from the group comprising, necked nonwovens, expandable films, elastomerics, or combinations thereof.

12. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is untensioned when applied to the precursor web.

13. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is applied under tension thereby gathering the at least a portion of the precursor web and providing a doubly expandable elastic area, with a first stage expansion taking out the gathers, and a second stage expansion expanding the at least a portion of the precursor web.

14. The method according to Claim 1 wherein a first elastic material is applied in an untensioned state to the precursor web, and a second elastic material is applied in a tensioned state to the precursor web.

15. In a method of producing elastic cuff areas in a web suitable for resultant garments, the web having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) providing the web at a first dimension, with width being measured in the lateral direction, the web being biaxially expandable to a second dimension greater than the first dimension;

b) affixing an elastic material to a cuff area of the web when the web is at the first dimension; and

c) constructing a garment from the web without permanent deformation of the web subsequent to affixing the elastic.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the elastic material is affixed in an untensioned state.

17. The method of Claim 15 wherein the elastic material is affixed in a tensioned state.

18. The method of Claim 15 wherein the cuff area is a leg cuff.

19. The method of Claim 15 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

20. In a method of producing selectively elastic cuff area in a web suitable for resultant garments, the steps comprising:

- a) providing the web at a first dimension, the web being expandable in a cuff area to a second dimension wider than the first dimension;
- b) affixing an elastic material to the cuff area of the web when the web is at the first dimension; and
- c) constructing a garment from the web without permanent deformation of the web subsequent to affixing the elastic.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein the elastic is affixed in an untensioned state to create a flat cuff area.

22. The method of Claim 20 wherein the elastic is affixed in a tensioned state.

23. An absorbent disposable garment having an nonrugose, ungathered and unshirred cuff area of a first material, the first material having an untensioned elastomeric second material thereon.

24. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 23 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

25. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 23 wherein the cuff area is a leg opening.

26. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 23 wherein the cuff area is expandible by 25% of its original dimension.

27. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 23 wherein the cuff area is expandible by 50% of its original dimension.

28. An absorbent disposable garment having an nonrugose, ungathered and unshirred cuff area of a first material, the first material having an elastomeric second material thereon of sufficiently low tension so as to not cause gathering and shirring of the first material.

29. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 28 wherein the cuff area is a waistband.

30. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 28 wherein the cuff area is a leg opening.

31. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 28 wherein the cuff area is expandible by 25% of its original dimension.

32. The absorbent disposable garment according to Claim 28 wherein the cuff area is expandible by 50% of its original dimension.

TOGETHER